

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/525,754

Examiner

Tung S. Lau

Applicant(s)

FUJIYAMA ET AL.

Art Unit

2863

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 06/19/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5-10 and 12-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification Amendment

1. Specification Amendment to the Abstract filed on 06/19/2007 is accepted by the examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 5-10, and 12-20 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
Independent claims 1 and 12 contain allowable subject matter. None of the prior art of record shows or fairly suggests the claimed invention.

Regarding claim 1:

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 1 is the inclusion of an operation-supporting apparatus for plant equipment including an emergency stop determination unit that determines whether to stop operation immediately based on a detection signal detected by the breakdown monitoring unit; and wherein, when not immediately stopping operation, a probability of an event that already occurred in the event tree stored in the breakdown statistics database is corrected from a pre-event probability to a post-event probability, and in addition, a subsequent event is corrected by using the post-event probability of the event that already occurred, and the event simulator uses a corrected degree of unreliability. It is these features found in the claim, as they are claimed in the

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combination, that has not been found, taught or suggested by the prior art of record which makes this claim allowable over the prior art.

Claims 5-10 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 1.

Regarding claim 12:

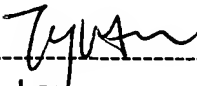
The primary reason for the allowance of claim 12 is the inclusion an operation-supporting apparatus for plant equipment including emergency stop determination unit that determines whether to stop operation immediately based on a detection signal detected by the breakdown monitoring unit; wherein, when not immediately stopping operation, a probability of an event that already occurred in the event tree stored in the breakdown statistics database is corrected from a pre-event probability to a post-event probability; and in addition, a subsequent event is corrected by using the post-event probability of the event that already occurred, and the event simulator uses a corrected degree of unreliability.

Claims 13-20 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 12.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tung S. Lau whose telephone number is 571-272-2274. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5:30. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on 571-272-2269. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Tung S. Lau
AU 2863, Patent examiner
July 10, 2007